



General Management Plan Process Continues NPS Proposes Conceptual Alternatives

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

In the 16 months since I came to Petersburg National Battlefield, I have spent a great deal of time in the important task of meeting and talking with the leaders and citizens of the communities of which the park is a part. I have been delighted and gratified by the profound interest so many of you have shown in the park and its future.

Now, we have taken the many ideas and concerns we have heard and organized them in a set of alternatives for the future of the park. This newsletter describes three conceptual alternatives for the preservation of resources and for visitor experiences. Please take some time to look these over and give us feedback on your reaction.

Sincerely,

Bob Kirby
Superintendent, Petersburg National Battlefield

The Planning Process

1. Establish Goals & Evaluate Data

- Reaffirm the purpose and significance of the park, as established by the U.S. Congress
- Evaluate resources, facilities and capabilities that relate to preservation, interpretation and visitor services goals
- Solicit issues and ideas from all interested citizens, organizations and communities

2. Develop a Range of Conceptual Alternatives

- Develop conceptual alternative for preservation, interpretation and visitor services
- Seek and consider public comment

3. Publish Draft GMP/EIS

- Revise conceptual alternatives as needed into detailed alternative proposals
- Select the NPS preferred alternative
- Evaluate the impacts of each
- Publish for 60-day public review and comment

4. Publish Final GMP/EIS

- Evaluate public and agency comment and make change to the preferred alternative as necessary
- Publish the final document
- Publish the Record of Decision

5. Begin Implementation

- Develop legislative proposals, site-specific facility development & resource management plans as needed
- Initiate funding requests
- Work with community on partnership initiatives

WE
ARE
HERE

Park Mission

The national park system represents many significant events, people and sites important to our nation's natural and cultural heritage. A park's mission statement describes why a particular park was created and why it is special. For the Petersburg National Battlefield General Management Plan, all the conceptual management alternatives you will read about in this newsletter have been developed to meet the park's mission:

The mission of Petersburg National Battlefield is to preserve the nationally significant resources associated with the campaign, siege and defense of Petersburg and Poplar Grove National Cemetery, and to provide an understanding of the events and their causes, impacts and legacy to individuals, the community and the nation in the full context of American history.

Park mission goals, although based on the NPS's service-wide mission goals, are specific to the park and reflect its purpose and significance. There are four general Mission Goals for achieving the mission. They are expressed below in terms of desired resource conditions and appropriate visitor experiences.

Mission Goal 1: Resource Protection

The landscapes, historic structures, monuments, grave sites, archeological sites and artifacts that are significant to the outcome of the military action or illustrate its causes, impacts or legacies are protected and maintained in good condition.

The fundamental purpose of this - and all - national parks is to preserve the resources for which the park was established by the U.S. Congress. This mission goal encompasses both the legislative mandates of the NPS and

the legislation specific to Petersburg National Battlefield. It tells managers to consider the broader context of historical events while preserving and interpreting the park's resources. To respond to this mission goal, park managers must clearly understand park resources, how they are related to resources beyond the park boundaries, and what resource conditions should be attained.

Mission Goal 2: Interpretation

The public understands the significant events leading up to and during the campaign, siege and defense of Petersburg and its impact on the nation in the full context of American history.

This mission goal guides the interpretive programming at the park. The experiences visitors have at the park should result in understanding why the park exists and the significance of its story and resources. Providing information, orientation, interpretation and education are key park actions that allow the visitor to make connections among the resources and the stories and values the park resources represent.

Mission Goal 3: Visitor Use and Facilities

Visitors safely enjoy high-quality educational experiences that are appropriate to the mission and accessible to all segments of the population.

Visitor safety and the quality of the visitor experience are affected by programs, facilities, and services, whether provided by NPS or outside partners. Convenient and appropriate facilities, services and interpretive opportunities that are available when visitors need them are important to enjoyment of the park. Park facilities and resources should be accessible to all populations. Recreational opportunities should be consistent with the park's purpose and significance and not harmful to resources or visitors.

Mission Goal 4: Organizational Efficiency

The park is a responsive, efficient, flexible and accountable organization, which uses all available resources to accomplish its mission.

The park seeks to understand and proactively communicate with state and local government, other agencies, the private sector and the public to find common interests in the preservation of cultural and natural resources and the provision of visitor services that enhance the experiences of visitors to the park and region.

Partnerships are a key way to help find solutions to the problems of increasing demands and diminishing means while also fulfilling the mission of resource protection without acquisition. Partnerships and cooperative programs will continue to be a part of successful park management for many reasons.

Intergovernmental cooperation is essential, as the park overlaps the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell, Dinwiddie County and Prince George County, requiring cooperative efforts in land and resource protection and interpretation. Initiatives are encouraged to bring the Park Service together with others interested in the history represented by the park and the preservation of war-related resources.



Planning Issues

Last May, many ideas, concerns and suggestions were collected at four public workshops held throughout the Petersburg region. Over this last year, these thoughts have been discussed and evaluated along with existing resource condition information and current NPS policy direction. These planning issues raised by both the public and the NPS affect the park's ability to achieve the mission under current circumstances. They are presented below. Alternatives for solving the issues are the core of the GMP.

Issues Related to Mission Goal 1: Resource Protection

- How should the park's historic landscapes and earthworks be managed?
- How should the park's historic structures be managed?
- How can park resources and values be protected from incompatible adjacent land uses?
- How should the park's collections and archives be managed?
- How should the park's natural resources be managed to achieve their protection while preserving the park's historic landscapes?

Issues Related to Mission Goal 2: Interpretation

- What is the best way to use the park's nationally significant cultural resources, including lands, earthworks and other structures, archeological resources and collections, to convey the complex story of the Petersburg Campaign to the visitor?
- What levels and kinds of visitor services are appropriate, given the geographically dispersed character of the park units?

Issues Related to Mission Goal 3: Visitor Use and Facilities

- How should visitors be oriented to the park, given the multiple points of entry from highways and local roads?
- What levels and kinds of visitor facilities are appropriate, and where?
- What should the role of recreation be in the visitor's park experience?

Issues Related to Mission Goal 4: Organizational Efficiency

- What should the park's role be in the preservation and interpretation of related nationally significant Civil War resources outside the park?
- To what extent can park values be protected and park goals achieved through agreements and partnerships with park neighbors and other institutions, organizations and agencies?
- How can administrative, maintenance, law enforcement and other operational facilities be provided most effectively?

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are the ideas and stories that a park and its resources represent. These are the concepts that it is important for every park visitor to understand as a result of time spent in the park. At Petersburg NB, the following topics will be presented as interpretive themes:

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Leadership and Command | • Civilian Life and Impacts |
| • Supply and Logistics | • Plantation and Slave Life |
| • Soldier Life, Warfare and Impacts | • Causes of Civil War |
| • Trench Life and Warfare | • Reunification and Emancipation |
| • Siege Life and Warfare | • Importance of Railroads |

Comparing the Conceptual Alternatives

The concepts described on the following pages outline new approaches for managing Petersburg National Battlefield. They include measures for protecting cultural and natural resources, for providing intriguing experiences for park visitors, and for providing appropriate and feasible facilities for visitors and the infrastructure necessary to manage the park. These concepts are the result of our consideration of the park's mission and goals, current resource conditions, and ideas and concerns from the public. The concepts are meant to spark discussion. They are not plans and do not represent decisions.

The reason for considering a range of alternatives is so that the opportunities, benefits, issues, impacts and costs of each can be compared and understood.

We are interested in your thoughts about these concepts. Please see the last page of this newsletter for ways in which you can communicate with us.

After public review and additional consideration by the NPS, these concepts or some modification of them, as well as their potential environmental impacts, will be fully described in a draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, which will be published early next year. We'll hold public workshops at that time to ensure we hear from everyone who is interested in the future of the park.



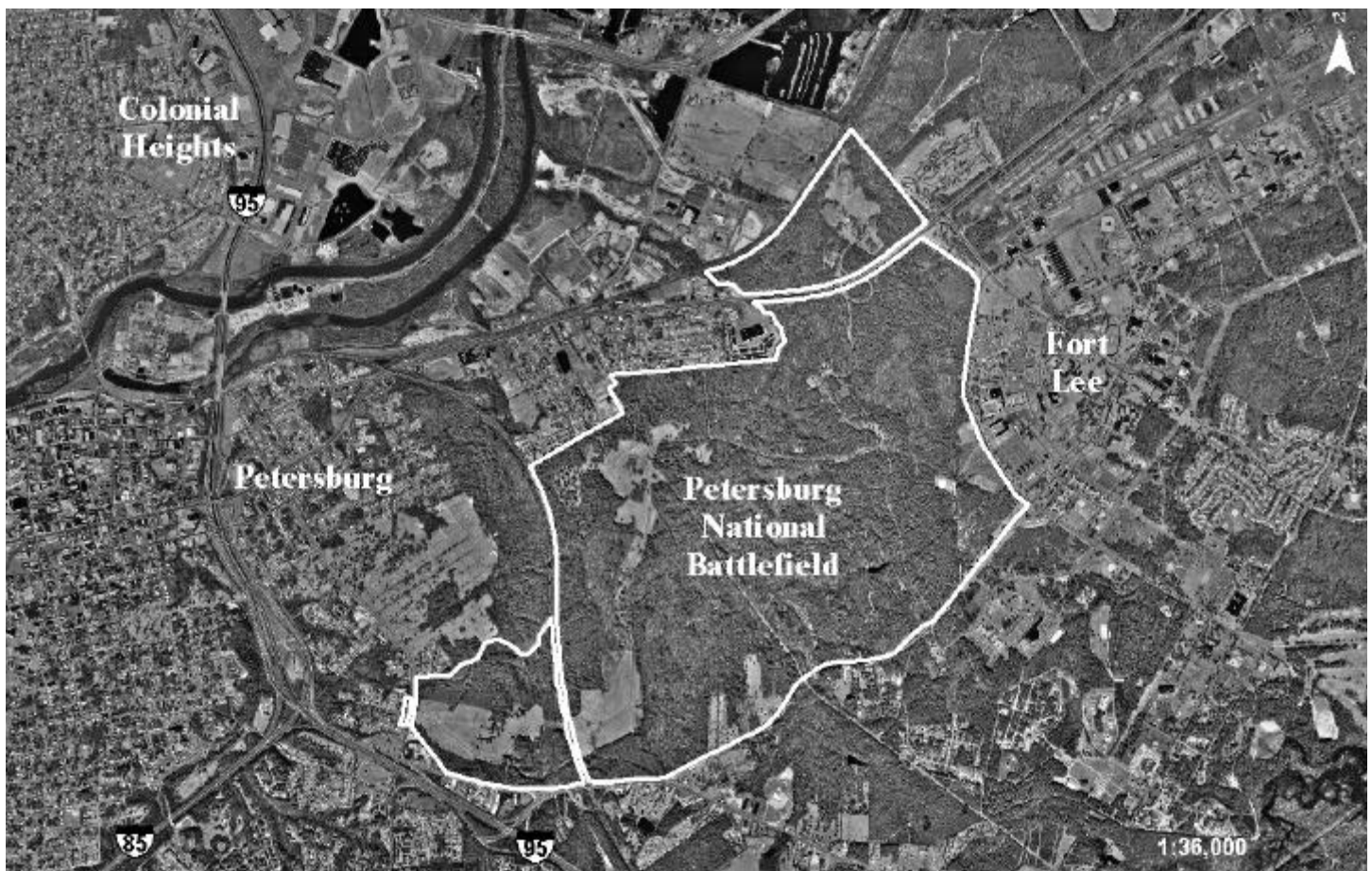
A Note on New Lands

At the request of the U.S. Congress, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission assessed the status of Civil War battlefields and reported in 1993 that 23,000 acres of lands associated with the Petersburg Campaign retain their integrity. Only 3,300 of these acres, however, (including 2,692 within the park) enjoy long-term protection. NPS estimates that about 6,282 acres represent the epicenter of action on the 12 battlefields associated with the Petersburg Campaign.

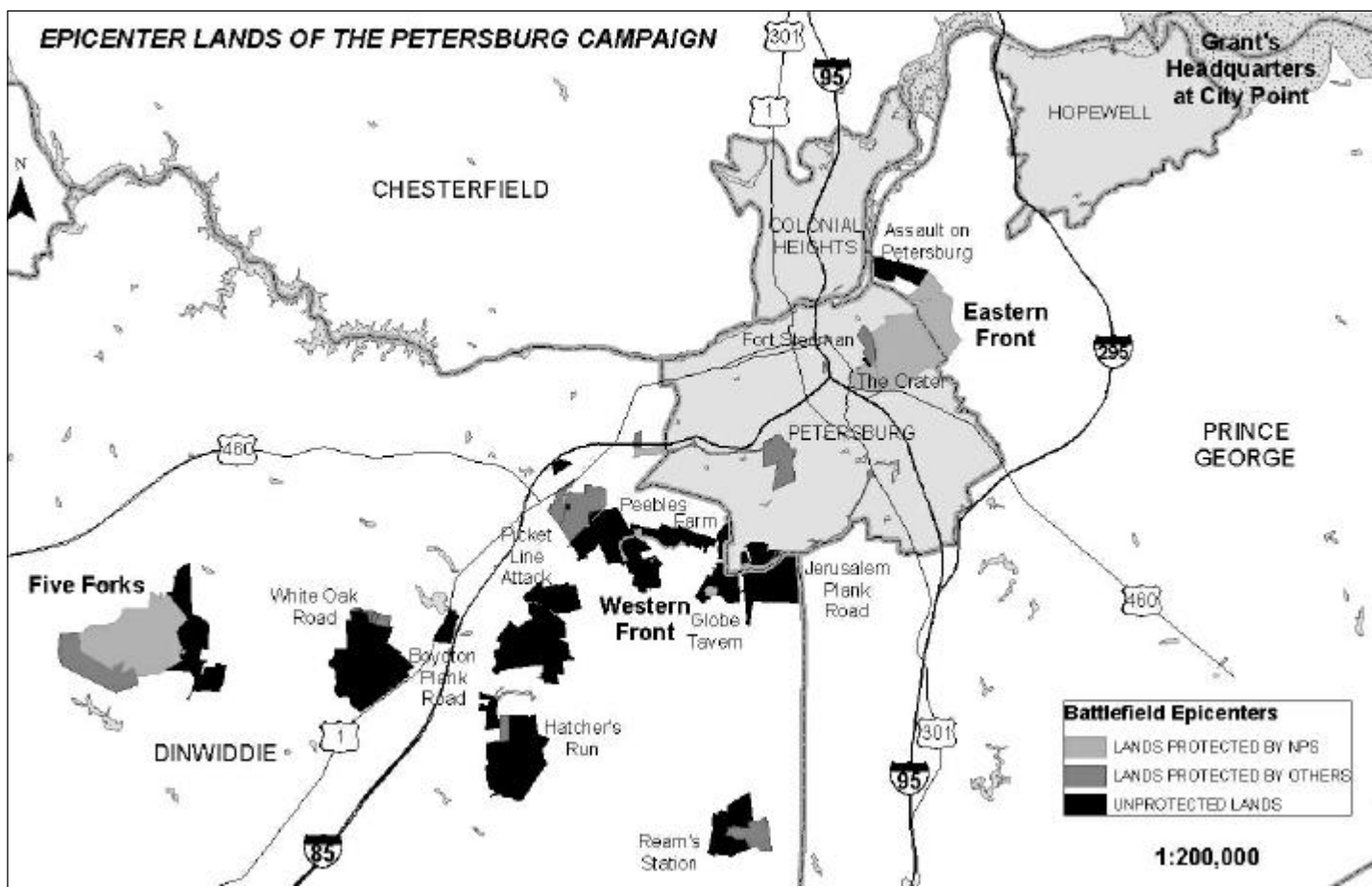
The battlefields lie in localities that are experiencing growth. Given current trends, rural counties such as Dinwiddie will be fully built-out by the turn of the next century. It is easy to foresee that without action, many of these lands will be lost to development, and that

currently protected battlefields will serve as "the hole in the doughnut," just as the Eastern Front does in Prince George County and Petersburg, as shown below.

As part of the planning process for the GMP, NPS will consider a number of roles it might play in working with communities to protect these important battlefield lands. These roles range from advocacy, to working with local agencies, to acquisition from willing sellers. Under some of the alternatives presented in this newsletter, the park would seek legislative authority to enlarge its boundary - currently 2,692 acres - to include the 6,282 acres of epicenter lands. Acquisition of the individual parcels would be dependent on public support and funding.



The Eastern Front unit of Petersburg National Battlefield was established in the 1930s. This current aerial photograph shows how modern development has since completely surrounded the battlefield, which would have been lost if not protected by the U.S. Congress at that time.



Almost 6,300 acres of epicenter battlefield lands (the darkest tones on this map) currently are not protected from inappropriate development. The conceptual alternatives described in this newsletter propose varying means to approach their preservation.



Renaming Sites

Changing the current names of individual sites and units to reflect strategic positions or other Civil War usage is recommended as part of this GMP. These proposed changes are reflected in the conceptual alternatives.

Current Name	Proposed Name
City Point Unit	Grant's Headquarters at City Point
Main Unit	Eastern Front
Outlying Unit	Western Front
Five Forks Unit	Five Forks Battlefield



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Here's How You Can Be Involved

Please let us know what you think about the concepts presented in this newsletter.

1. You can send written comments through the mail at any time to:

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1539 Hickory Road
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2. You can send written comments by e-mail at any time to:

PETE_GMP@nps.gov.
3. If you use the Web, you can find ongoing updates about the park at:

<http://www.nps.gov/pete>.